AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Abstract

A search engine architecture is designed to handle a full range of user queries, from complex sentence-based queries to simple keyword searches. The ~~search engine~~ architecture includes a natural language parser that parses a user query and extracts syntactic and semantic information. The parser is robust in the sense that it not only returns fully-parsed results (e.g., a parse tree), but ~~is~~ can also ~~capable of returning~~ return partially-parsed ~~fragments in those cases~~ where more accurate or descriptive information ~~in the user query~~ is unavailable. A question matcher is employed to match ~~the fully-parsed output and the partially-parsed fragments~~ both types of output to a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) stored in a database. The question matcher then correlates the questions with a group of possible answers ~~arranged in standard templates~~ that represent possible solutions ~~to the user query~~. ~~The search engine architecture also has a keyword searcher to locate other possible answers by searching on any keywords returned from the parser.~~ The ~~answers~~ returned answers ~~from the question matcher and the keyword searcher~~ are presented ~~to the user~~ for user confirmation, ~~as to which answer best represents the user's intentions when entering the initial search query. The search engine architecture logs the queries, the answers returned to the user, and the user's confirmation feedback in a log database. The search engine has a log analyzer to evaluate the log database to glean information that improves performance of the search engine over time by training the parser and the question matcher.~~ and are logged into a log database along with the original queries. The

log database information is evaluated to improve performance of the engine over time by training the parser and the question matcher.

At page 1, line 8, please amend to read:

Today's popular search engines, such as ~~"Yahoo!"~~ YAHOO!® and ~~"MSN.com"~~ MSN.COM™ are used by millions of users each day to find information.

At page 1, line 13, please amend to read:

The majority of search engines on the Web today (e.g., ~~Yahoo!~~ YAHOO!® and ~~MSN.com~~ MSN.COM™) rely mainly on keyword searching.

At page 2, line 15, please amend to read:

A prime example of a FAQ-based search engine is the engine employed at the Web site ~~"Askjeeves.com"~~ ASKJEEVES.COM™.

Continuing our example to locate a Chinese restaurant in Seattle, suppose a user at the ~~"Askjeeves.com"~~ ASKJEEVES.COM™ site enters the following search query:

At page 4, lines 9, please amend to read:

Entering 'travel' as a keyword query in ~~Yahoo!~~ YAHOO!® , for example, a user is given 289 categories and 17925 sites and the travel information about Beijing is nowhere in the first 100 items.

At page 12, line 3, please amend to read

Upon analyzing a one-day log from ~~MSN.com~~ MSN.COM™, the inventors discovered that 30% of the concepts covered approximately 80% of all queries in the selected query pool.